

# Weekly National Intelligencer.

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No 984

## THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1854.

## BIRTH OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Having, on the last National Anniversary, (the Fourth of July,) suggested that the Seventeenth of September, being the anniversary of the next most important event in American History, deserves also to be observed as a National Festival, we deem it not inappropriate at this day to recur to the subject. It was sixty-seven years yesterday, the 17th of September, 1787, that the Constitution of the United States was completed by the Convention of Delegates appointed by the several States "to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

The Convention assembled at Philadelphia on the 14th day of May, 1787, and concluded its labors on the 17th September, 1787, after a session of four months and three days.

The Constitution was reported to the Congress of the Confederation, on the day of its final adoption, by GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the Convention, in the following letter:

"In CONVENTION, September 17, 1787.

"His Excellency the President of Congress.

"SIR: We have now the honor to submit to the consideration of the United States, in Congress assembled, that Constitution which has appeared to us the most advisable. The friends of our country have long seen and desired that the power of making war, peace, and treaties, that of levying money and regulating commerce, and the corresponding executive and judicial authorities, should be fully and effectually vested in the General Government of the Union; but the impropriety of delegating such extensive trust to one body of men is evident; hence results the necessity of a different organization.

"It is obviously impracticable in the Federal Government of these States to secure all rights of independent sovereignty to each and yet provide for the interest and safety of all. Individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest. The magnitude of the sacrifice must depend as well on situation and circumstance as on the object to be obtained. It is at all times difficult to draw with precision the line between those rights which must be surrendered and those which may be reserved; and on the present occasion this difficulty was increased by a difference among the several States as to their situation, extent, habits, and particular interests.

"In all our deliberations on this subject we kept steadily in our view that which appears to us the greatest interest of every true American—the consolidation of our Union, in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, perhaps our national existence. This important consideration, seriously and deeply impressed on our minds, led each State in the Convention to be less rigid on points of inferior magnitude than might have been otherwise expected; and thus the Constitution which we now present is the result of a spirit of amity, and of that mutual deference and concession which the peculiarity of our political situation rendered indispensable.

"That it will meet the full and entire approbation of every State is not perhaps to be expected; but each will doubtless consider that, had her interest alone been consulted, the consequences might have been particularly disagreeable or injurious to others; that it is liable to as few exceptions as could reasonably have been expected, we hope and believe; that it may promote the lasting welfare of that country so dear to us all, and secure her freedom and happiness, is our most ardent wish.

"With great respect, we have the honor to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and humble servants.

"By unanimous order of the Convention.

"GEORGE WASHINGTON, President."

The Constitution was ratified by the Convention of the several States, as follows:

By the Convention of the State of Delaware on the 12th December 1787; by Pennsylvania on the 12th December 1787; by New Jersey on the 18th December, 1787; by Georgia on the 21st January, 1788; by Connecticut on the 9th January, 1788; by Massachusetts on the 6th February, 1788; by Maryland on the 28th April, 1788; by South Carolina on the 23d May, 1788; by New Hampshire on the 21st June, 1788; by Virginia on the 29th June, 1788; by New York on the 26th July, 1788; by North Carolina on the 21st November, 1789; and by Rhode Island on the 29th May, 1790.

The Articles in addition to and in amendment of the Constitution, proposed by Congress and submitted to the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth article of the original Constitution, were ratified (the first ten) as follows:

"By New Jersey, 20th November, 1789; by Maryland, 19th December, 1789; by North Carolina, 22d December, 1789; by South Carolina, 19th January, 1790; by New Hampshire, 25th January, 1790; by Delaware, 28th January, 1790; by Pennsylvania, 10th March, 1790; by New York, 27th March, 1790; by Rhode Island, 15th June, 1790; by Vermont, 2d November, 1791; by Virginia, 15th December, 1791."

The eleventh amendment was proposed at the first session of the Third Congress, March 5, 1794, and was declared in a Message from the President of the United States to both Houses of Congress, dated January 8, 1795, to have been adopted by the constitutional number of States.

The twelfth amendment was proposed at the first session of the Eighth Congress, December 12th, 1803, and was adopted by the constitutional number of States in 1804, according to a public notice thereof by the Secretary of State, dated 25th of September of the same year.

The excellent work of Mr. HICKY, embodying all the facts connected with the adoption of the Constitution, is worthy of frequent reference.

VIRGINIA took the lead in the active measures which led to the accomplishment of this momentous object, by her resolutions of the 21st January, 1786, appointing EDMUND RANDOLPH, JAMES MADISON, WALTER JONES, ST. GEO. TUCKER, MERRIETH SMITH, DAVID ROSS, WM. RONALD, and

GEORGE MASON as Commissioners, to meet such as might be appointed by the other States of the Union. New York, however, had, as early as July, 1782, moved in the matter, and clearly pointed out the necessity for adopting the present form of Government. New Jersey had also suggested to other States the idea of "extending the powers of their Deputies to other objects than those of commerce," and they seem to have acted upon it. These facts prove (says the work referred to) that the credit of producing the vital change in the Government which gave being to our glorious Constitution does not belong to any particular State or individual, but resulted from the wide-spread conviction of the wise and honest men and true patriots with whom the country was blessed at that critical and eventful period in its annals.

Hardly inferior, then, in importance to the Declaration of Independence stands in history the epoch of the Constitution of the United States; and hence our suggestion that the day of its adoption, like the Fourth of July, ought to be celebrated as a National Anniversary; since, on that occasion, was brought about the consolidation of our Union, in which, said the Father of his Country most truly, is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, and perhaps our national existence.

On the 6th of April, 1789, GEORGE WASHINGTON was publicly proclaimed to have been unanimously elected PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, agreeably to the Constitution; and on the 30th of the same month the President took the oath of office and delivered his Inaugural Address. There are passages in that Address which cannot be too often or too earnestly impressed upon the minds and hearts of the American people. Recurring to the circumstances under which he had assumed the high responsibility of the station, the PRESIDENT said:

"It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose Providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for their essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private blessing, I sincerely adore and adore him as the Father of the Fatherless, and acknowledge the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential aid; and, in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities from which the event has resulted, cannot be ascribed to the mere influence of human wisdom, but are to be ascribed to the interposition of that Being who is the author of all our mercies."

"It will be more consistent with these circumstances, and with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute, in place of the recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications I behold the surest pledges that, as on one side, no local prejudices or attachments, no separate views or party animosities will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests, so, on another, that the foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality, and the pre-eminent of free Government be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction, since an ardent love for my country may inspire, since there is no truth more certain than that the Union of the States is the basis of our national happiness, and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of Government are justly considered as deeply, as finally, and as permanently entrusted to the hands of the American People."

The Hon. JOSEPH R. CHANDLER has addressed to the President of the "Whig Convention of the Second Congressional district of Pennsylvania" the subjoined letter accepting his nomination for reelection to the seat in Congress which he has so ably and honorably filled:

PHILADELPHIA, SEPT. 15, 1854.

DEAR SIR: A committee has conveyed to me the intelligence that the Whig Convention has nominated me as a candidate for reelection to Congress in the second district. Such an expression of confidence on the part of the Convention denotes an approval of the course which I have pursued in the councils of the nation; and in accepting the honor thus proffered I beg to express to you and the body over which you preside my grateful acknowledgments.

Actuated at all times by an earnest solicitude for the growing and permanent interests of Philadelphia, I have sought to the utmost of my abilities to serve my constituents by a faithful discharge of the duties of my station. If re-elected, these efforts shall not be abandoned; and I pledge myself that they shall be joined to an unflinching vigilance against all inroads and innovations which may have for their object a weakening of the rights which the Constitution secures to every citizen of the United States, and which render our common country an asylum for those who are objects of persecuting intolerance or are sufferers under the iron heel of relentless despotism.

Be pleased to convey to the members of the Convention the assurances of the profound respect with which I have the honor to be to their your friend and fellow-citizen, JOSEPH R. CHANDLER.

To THOMAS SNOWDEN, Esq., President Whig Convention 2d Congressional district.

The mails continue to furnish cold comfort for the famine abroad, either as regards the crops at home or abroad. The crops in England and throughout Europe generally prove to be unusually abundant. The London Times, in a leader on this subject, says:

"From this harvest to the next there can be no doubt that the difference in the price of wheat compared with that in the previous twelve months will be at least 20s. a quarter in favor of the public, which, on the whole consumption, will amount to a boon of twenty-five millions of pounds to that body on wheat alone, besides corresponding relief in other grain. Even the cost of the war sinks to a trifle compared with this bounty from the skies; and, notwithstanding all the lavish expenditure incurred, we now stand better prepared for war by some twenty millions than a twelvemonth ago."

## "ALL PARTIAL EVIL UNIVERSAL GOOD."

The Greytown affair, according to public report, is to verify the dictum of the poet, by accelerating a general and final settlement of the long-standing Central American difficulties. That affair was "evil" enough and "small" enough certainly, and if the Secretary of State has managed to turn his own error to any good account he will prove himself very clever or very lucky, and we shall be willing to give him full credit for it, besides having our confidence strengthened in the philosophy of the poet. The story we allude to is found in the following letter of the intelligent Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce:

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 15.

I have reason to believe that the Central American question is about to be settled between the United States and Great Britain in a manner mutually satisfactory. The Greytown affair has served the good purpose of expediting an adjustment. The principles of adjustment are agreed upon here. As Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is a shy diplomatist, and was greatly annoyed at the exposure of the treaty which he made with Mr. WENSTER, (which exposure was the cause of its failure,) it is to be hoped that the particulars of the new project will not be prematurely divulged. Of course the British Government is yet to be consulted on the subject of the project. The interests of both Governments require a speedy adjustment of the subject. Of course the arrangement will include an indemnity for the destruction of property of British subjects at Greytown.

On Saturday, September 24, two hundred and fifty emigrants, on their way to Nebraska, passed through St. Louis.

## THE LATE RIOT AT NEWARK.

The Hon. ROBERT M. PRIOR, Governor of New Jersey, has issued his proclamation, offering six hundred dollars reward for the discovery of the person who killed John McCarthy in the recent riot, and also a reward of three hundred dollars for the apprehension and conviction of each and every person or persons employed in aiding or abetting in breaking into or destroying the property of the German Catholic Church. The proclamation concludes as follows:

"It should be to all citizens of New Jersey a subject of deep regret and mortification that a holy sanctuary has been ruthlessly invaded in the usually well-ordered city of Newark; and in view of the dangerous and disastrous consequences likely to result from an offense so humiliating and so subversive of the peace and good order of society, and so violative of the Christian respect, estimation, and sacred reverence entertained by our citizens for the house dedicated to the worship of Almighty God and the principles of free religious toleration recognized by our constitution and laws, I do hereby enjoin all magistrates and other officers entrusted with the execution of the laws to be vigilant in detecting and bringing to punishment all such offenders; and I invoke all good citizens to cultivate, by examples of moderation and forbearance, a feeling of order and harmony in the community."

## NORTHERN MEXICO.

The Brownsboro (Texas) "Flag" of the 2d instant has the following account of another conflict between the Insurgents and Government troops at Victoria:

"We are in possession of reliable information from the camp of the Insurgent army, which states that there had been another bloody engagement between the Insurgents and the Government forces before the city of Victoria. From what we can learn, it seems that Governor de la Garza was besieged in Victoria by a regular force of 2,000 men. The Insurgents charged the breastworks of the besieged with the loss of an easy victory. The numbers within the breastworks were not exceeding six or seven hundred men. The Insurgents were armed with triple entrenchments, and each man carried a double-barreled rifle. The Insurgent statement estimates the loss in killed and wounded, on the part of the enemy, at four hundred, and on the part of the Insurgents, at one hundred and sixty men. The fight, we are informed, continued for three days, when, on the night of the third day, the Insurgents, having exhausted their ammunition and being out of provisions, abandoned the city. This was the regular theme of the Insurgents, and with them all their artillery save two pieces of heavy caliber, which could not be removed, and which they spiked. In these engagements some eight or ten officers are said to have been killed or disabled; and among the killed the gallant Lieutenant Colonel Lamadrid, of the regiment of Tres Villas, on the side of the Patriots is said to have been very striking."

The alleged smuggling on board of the United States sloop-of-war Saratoga, upon investigation, turns out not to have been very extensive. A large proportion of the articles are mere curiosities, which were picked up by the seamen in China and Japan, and consist of idols, images, rare boxes, and feather ornaments of little value, and not subject to import duty, and some are said to be of Chinese origin. It is true that a few silks, four furs, a couple of pieces of grass-cloth and silk were discovered; but thus far the owners are not known. It is the opinion of the revenue officers that the commissioned officers of the sloop-of-war are free from all suspicion. Several of the regulars themselves, however, are getting ready for sea at the latest search of the vessel. A law of 1846 provides "that no officer or other person connected with the navy of the United States shall, under any pretense, import in any ship or vessel of the United States any goods, wares, or merchandise liable to the payment of duty." Thus it will be observed that the law is very strict in its terms, and it is brought here in a Government vessel could not be entered at the custom-house, but must be confiscated.—Boston Courier.

ARMY ORDERS.—On Saturday last General CLARK received a despatch from Washington requiring him to concentrate the Sixth Regiment at Jefferson Barracks for an early start for California. The communication was brief, and limited to the simple order for immediate preparation.—St. Louis Democrat of 12th.

NAVAL.—It is said that the U. S. ship Independence, getting ready for the Pacific, has lost eighteen of her men by desertion. These men received two months' pay in advance (thirty-six dollars) when they enlisted for the service. The only punishment they received, if arrested, is to be put in the stocks on the receiving ship North Carolina for a certain period. Some of the refractory say they prefer this punishment to duty in the Pacific.

Commander BUTWELL, who has been for some in command of the latest rendezvous in Baltimore, has been ordered to the command of the John Adams, now getting ready for sea at Boston. She is destined for the Pacific.

The U. S. storeship Relief is now fully loaded with provisions and clothing for the officers and crews of the vessels of the Brazil squadron. She is detained, however, for some machinery for the steamer Water Witch, now at the River La Plata, South America. The machinery is being expected here from Washington, and the ship will sail as soon as it is put on board.

SATURN.—This beautiful object, with its multiple rings, equatorial belts, and octaves of satellites, is now visible in the eastern quarter of the heavens, under ten degrees E. of its southern pole just grazing the main division between the brighter rings, while its north pole is concealed behind the opposite section of its circular attendant. It is not far from its maximum annual separation. Every evening it rises about four minutes earlier.—Albany, N. Y.

THE TURF.—A race came off on the National Course, Long Island, on Thursday, between the Virginia horse "One-Eyed Joe" and the Kentucky colt "Garrett Davis." Three mile race for \$4,000. The betting was very heavy, and over \$25,000 was depended upon the result. Kentucky was pitted against Virginia, and a good deal of feeling enlisted. The race was easily won by One-Eyed Joe, who took the lead on the first heat and was not headed. On the second heat Garrett Davis led off, but was passed on the last mile by his competitor, who won the race in 5:58.

## THE LATE MASSACRE ON THE PLAINS.

In the St. Louis papers of the 12th instant we have the horrible particulars of the late massacre of a detachment of United States troops near Fort Laramie. It is evident that the regular force in that region is altogether insufficient for either of offence or defence, and Congress will incur a weighty responsibility if it again neglects to comply with the Executive recommendation to strengthen it.

## FROM THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN.

Authentic details of the Battle at Sarg's Point—Defeat of the Troops from Fort Laramie—Government goods captured—Store pillaged.

SARG'S POINT, NEBRASKA TERRITORY, EIGHT MILES E. OF FORT LARAMIE, AUG. 21, 1854.

So many affairs have happened here between the soldiers and the Indians which ought to be properly noticed by the United States Government. Having been an eye-witness to the battle, I consider it my duty to furnish a strict account of it and its causes.

On the first place, on the 17th August, a train of Mormon wagons, with a detachment of soldiers, were camped here waiting for their payment from Government, but no provisions, and were of course anxious for something to eat. As the Mormons were passing a large cow, belonging to a man in the rear of the Mormon train, he saw the soldiers and the Indians, and he called out to the Mormon train, and one of the Indians, a Minnecan, shot him down, and with his companions set it up. The Mormons then went to the Fort and reported that the Indians had killed one of their cows.

On the 19th, about two o'clock in the afternoon, Lieut. Bear Chief of the Warrier was ordered to arrest the Indian who had killed the cow. I accordingly sent for the chiefs to go with the lieutenant and make the arrest. They accompanied him, but the Indian was not willing to give himself up, saying that he would die first. While the Bear Chief of the Warrier was with three other chiefs, the Little Thunder, the Big Partisan, and the Man who is afraid of his Horses, among the soldiers, the lieutenant ordered his men to fire. They did so, and wounded the Bear Chief and his brother. But one round was fired, and the Indians fled. The lieutenant succeeded in routing the soldiers and killing all of them with the exception of one private, who is not expected to recover. Lieut. Grattan and two of his men were killed while standing by their cannon, the lieutenant receiving twenty-four arrows, one of which passed through his head. As soon as the soldiers saw their commander fall, they took to flight, but were all killed within half a mile of this place. The Ogallala camp was about one mile distant, and a white man named Lefroy Iott was staying there at the time. Being a Sioux interpreter, the chiefs requested him to stay between the camps to prevent the young men from charging on the soldiers, and he did so, and succeeded, and barely escaped with his life. \* \* \*

After the battle the chiefs came in my house, and said that, as the young men had killed all the soldiers that had come to fight them, they would now go and slaughter the rest of the soldiers at the fort, burn the houses, and kill all the soldiers on the river. But I told the chiefs to stop them from so doing, assuring them that, since the soldiers had commenced the quarrel, they were overlooked by Government. But they then rushed in the house, and demanded of me to give them every thing that they wanted. To save our lives I gave them every thing that I had in my store, to the amount of two thousand dollars. The next day they went to the post of the American Fur Company, took all the goods that were sent to them by Government, and pillaged the store. The situation of the traders and of Fort Laramie is now very dangerous. The Indians are subject to the command of the fort to bury the dead soldiers, since he had not men enough to detach a party for that service, and I succeeded in doing so.

As far as I know any thing about Indians, I think that Government should send six hundred mounted men, regular troops, to keep the Indians in subjection, and a company of infantry to guard the fort. The Indians in the recent battle, after killing all the soldiers, broke their camp, and carried off their goods and their horses, and then they went to the fort, and they were shot at. There were about one thousand Indians in the battle. Yours truly, JAMES DORRIS, per SAMUEL SMITH.

## Copy of a Letter from the Commander of Fort Laramie to James Dorriss.

FORT LARAMIE, NEBRASKA, AUGUST 20, 1854.

SIR: Your letter of the 19th has been received by me, and in reply I beg to say that I have been notified by the present of this unfortunate transaction; and I wish you to speak to the Bear and other chiefs with reference to the matter. Make the best terms with them you can for the present, for your own safety and the safety of others likewise unprotected in the country. I wish you to keep them in subjection, and to prevent the restoration of the bodies of those who have been killed.

Your obedient servant, H. B. FLEMING, Second Lieut. Sixth Infantry, Commanding.

## ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The St. Louis Democrat furnishes the particulars of the same lamentable affair, as derived from LEFROY IOTT, the Sioux interpreter mentioned in the preceding letter. The two accounts agree in all essential particulars.

Two hours after, entered more into detail concerning what took place previous to the conflict. He says: "Lieut. Fleming, when the story of the cow was told to him, ordered that the chief of the Sioux (Mattiawan, the Bear,) and demanded that the Minnecan Indian should be delivered up. Mattiawan informed him that if he would send a file of soldiers he would endeavor to have the Indian surrendered. Lieut. Fleming then ordered that he should send twenty-two men and the United States Interpreter, Augustus Lott, to accompany the Sioux chief to the Minnecan village, which was situated some nine miles below the Fort, near 'Bordeaux's House.' The lieutenant with his command marched down, taking with him six hundred and planted them in the Wahsatch camp, where the Indian in question was lodged. Mattiawan then went into the village and demanded the Indian, but the chiefs would not listen to him. They told him that they would pay for the cow, or they would replace it, or they would leave the matter to the Indians; but when he came, he would be killed. Mattiawan returned, made his statement to Lieut. Grattan, told him if he wanted the Indian he would have to go and kill him, as he was unable to get him, and then returned to the Sioux camp. Lieut. Grattan replied that if there was any killing to be done, he would attend to that matter, and accordingly immediately ranged his pieces of artillery and commenced firing upon the village. Three or four muskets were also fired at the same time, but the only result was to knock the top off one of the lodges, and wound the Indian and his brother, who were standing in front—the former with three balls, the latter with one. So soon as the troops fired the Indians returned, and poured upon them a shower of arrows. The first discharge killed Lieut. Grattan, who was standing by the side of the cannon. As soon as he fell his command at once dispersed, and he was left alone, leaving their cannon, arms, and every thing else. The Sioux then charged upon the flying soldiers, and shot and tomahawked every man of them save one, who made his escape by taking down a ravine, and thus getting out of sight. The tragedy occurred on the afternoon of the 19th of August, and it was not until the next morning that the news of it reached the Fort."

Nothing further has been heard from the Fort at the present time, and it would seem that the report that the Sioux had surrounded Laramie is not confirmed. As to the taking it, (the Republican says,) that is not regarded as very probable by those best acquainted with its situation. The Indians may invest it, but, as it is well known that they are never provided with provisions, except for such an undertaking, they must fail unless they can fire the Fort. This they cannot do. They may burn the soldiers' quarters and the outside buildings, but the troops can retreat to the Fort, which contains all the commissary stores, and there defend themselves. The Fort is an adobe building, with walls three feet thick, large enough to accommodate all the whites, and impracticable against all the assaults of the Indians. In any event they are safe enough, and the Indians are much more likely to starve out than the occupants of the Fort. Gen. CLARK has ordered some troops from Fort Riley to the relief of Fort Laramie.

## LETTER FROM HON. WILLIAM DUER.

It is due to the high character of the writer of the subjoined letter, and to his ability, independence, and standing as a former Representative in Congress, that we give to it a place in our columns.

Letter from Hon. Wm. Duer, of California, in reply to an Invitation from Citizens of Oswego to a Public Dinner.

OSWEGO, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6, 1854.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 1st instant, inviting me, on behalf of my old personal and political friends, to a public dinner, at such time as may suit my convenience, prior to my departure from this place.

I came here, gentlemen, to mingle and converse with my old neighbors and friends, and I have had great pleasure in doing so. You will, I trust, pardon me if I decline the more formal testimony which you tender to me of your esteem. You have already conferred upon me more honors than I deserve, and I need no new proof of your regard, the remembrance of which I shall carry with me wherever my lot may be cast.

You have expressed your appreciation of my course as your Representative in Congress. It was my fortune, for I will not say misfortune, to represent you at a time when questions were pending—sectional questions—which deeply agitated the passions of men and affected in the highest degree the welfare of the Republic. I may have erred in the course I pursued; but so far as a man can know his own heart, and I am not unaccustomed to analyze my motives, I am quite unconscious that I was influenced in any degree whatever by passion, prejudice, or party feeling, or any personal or selfish object. I acted as seemed to me best for our common country; and there is no part of my life to which now, after an interval of some years, I look back with more satisfaction, or I may say self-esteem.

When the Compromises of 1850 were passed there was at first great dissatisfaction in portions of the North. That dissatisfaction was founded in error, was unreasonable, and could not last. If there was ground of complaint anywhere it was at the South, and not at the North. The South was the party who had broken the compact which had been made by the treaty of Washington, the South obtained no part whatever for her favorite institution. In every inch of that vast territory slavery was prohibited by positive law; in Oregon by act of Congress, in California by the act of the people in forming their State constitution, and in New Mexico and Utah by the old Mexican laws, which continued in force till repealed, and which both Houses of Congress expressly refused to repeal. The non-intervention of 1850 was non-intervention with anti-slavery laws; laws prohibiting slavery in all the territory of the United States (the Indian Territory excepted) without the bounds of a State; and it seems to me not an argument, but an insult to the understanding to maintain that the principle of that settlement demands the removal of barriers to the introduction of slavery. Tell, gentlemen, under the joint action of the portion of Texas was ceded to the United States and annexed to New Mexico, and thus practically converted from slave into free territory. It is true the title of Texas was disputed. Take it that it was doubtful, still it was something gained by the North; but it has always been my strong conviction that under the joint action of the portion of Texas was ceded to the United States and annexed to New Mexico, and thus practically converted from slave into free territory. It is true the title of Texas was disputed. 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